

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2652

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1805

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR ALSTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, CHIP AND CARON), AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK: CHIP AND CARON CARTER VISIT

REF: STATE 59622

1. MANY THANKS FOR REFTEL, GIVING COMMENTS ON CHIP AND CARON CARTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA. IT ARRIVED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH A DRAFT OUTLINE OF A SCHEDULE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, WHICH FITS ALMOST TO A "T" WITH WASHINGTON'S THINKING.

2. ONLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IS THAT DATES FOR AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK ARE MAY 7 TO MAY 14, RATHER THAN THE EARLIER ONES MENTIONED REFTEL. (AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, I WILL BE ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY FROM APRIL 26 TO MAY 3.)

3. TWELVE DAYS SOUNDS JUST FINE, AND I KNOW WE CAN WORK OUT A VERY WORTHWHILE PROGRAM WITHIN THAT LIMIT. I CANNOT DESCRIBE TO YOU JUST HOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY THE AAA AND GOA ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR VISIT. WE AGREE COMPLETELY ON THE PROPOSED SIDE TRIPS TO SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, CANBERRA, ADELAIDE AND BRISBANE. SINCE THE AUSTRALIAN

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GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO PUT A PLANE AT CHIP'S AND CARON'S DISPOSAL, I BELIEVE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIT IN HOBART AND A ONE-DAY TRIP TO PERTH WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY, WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AYERS ROCK ON THE FLIGHT FROM PERTH TO BRISBANE. PERTH IS ONLY FOUR HOURS FLYING TIME FROM HERE, SO IT LOOKS A BIT FURTHER ON A MAP THAN IT REALLY IS. WE WILL ENSURE

THAT THE AAA DOES NOT RUN AWAY WITH ITSELF AND PACK THE SCHEDULE TOO TIGHTLY. I WILL GET BACK TO YOU PROMPTLY WITH OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE AAA A PROPOSED ITINERARY BASED UPON AN ASSUMED ARRIVAL DATE IN CANBERRA OF MAY 5 OR 6, WITH A DAY OR SO OF REST AT HOME WITH ELKIN AND ME BEFORE BEGINNING THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, MAY 7. PLEASE LET ME KNOW SOONEST IF THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

4. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO KNOW IF THEY WILL BE ARRIVING ON AN OFFICIAL USG AIRCRAFT AND IF WE SHOULD PLAN ON USING IT FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL RATHER THAN A GOA AIRCRAFT.

5. WARM REGARDS.
ALSTON

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